

We claim:

1        1. A computer implemented method for maintaining information provided by a user,

2        comprising:

3              encoding session information in a first web page, wherein at least a portion of the  
4              session information is not visible to the user;

5              sending the first web page over a network to a web browser of the user;

6              receiving updated session information from the user via the network;

7              decoding the updated session information; and

8              using the decoded session information to create a second web page.

1        2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the information provided by

2        the user enables the configuring of a configurable product.

3        3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the session information is

4        placed in a hidden form field.

5        4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining from

6        the decoded session information a state of the user's web session.

7        5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising determining from

8        the decoded session information all information provided by the user in a web session.

1        6. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the step of encoding the

2        session information includes encoding in the first web page all information provided by the user

3        at the time of encoding.

1        7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the decoded session

2        information is encoded into the second web page.

1           8. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein information encoded into the  
2 second web page includes all relevant session information provided by the user at the time of  
3 encoding.

1           9. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising using the updated  
2 session information to determine a configuration result.

1           10. The computer implemented method of claim 9, further comprising using the  
2 configuration result to generate the second web page.

1           11. A computer implemented method for configuring a configurable product for a user,  
2 comprising:

3           encoding session information in a first web page, wherein at least a portion of the  
4 session information is not visible to the user;  
5           sending the first web page over a network to a web browser of a user;  
6           receiving updated session information from the user via the network;  
7           decoding the updated session information; and  
8           using the decoded session information to create a second web page.

1           12. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the session information is  
2 placed in a hidden form field.

1           13. The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising determining  
2 from the decoded session information a state of the user's web session.

1           14. The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising determining  
2 from the decoded session information all information provided by the user in a web session.

1           15. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the step of encoding the  
2 session information includes encoding in the first web page all information provided by the user  
3 at the time of encoding.

1        16. The computer implemented method of claim 11, wherein the decoded session  
2 information is encoded into the second web page.

1        17. The computer implemented method of claim 16, wherein information encoded into  
2 the second web page includes all relevant session information provided by the user at the time of  
3 encoding.

1        18. The computer implemented method of claim 11, further comprising using the  
2 updated session information to determine a configuration result.

1        19. The computer implemented method of claim 18, further comprising using the  
2 configuration result to generate the second web page.

3        20. A computer program product for maintaining information provided by a user,  
4 comprising:

5              5 program code for encoding session information in a first web page, wherein at least a  
6 portion of the session information is not visible to the user;

7              6 program code for sending the first web page over a network to a web browser of the  
8 user;

9              7 program code for receiving updated session information from the user via the  
10 network;

1              8 program code for decoding the updated session information; and

2              9 program code for using the decoded session information to create a second web page.

1        21. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the information provided by the  
2 user enables the configuring of a configurable product.

1        22. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the session information is  
2 placed in a hidden form field.

1        23. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising program code for  
2 determining from the decoded session information a state of the user's web session.

1        24. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising program code for  
2 determining from the decoded session information all information provided by the user in a web  
3 session.

1        25. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the program code for encoding  
2 the session information includes program code for encoding in the first web page all information  
3 provided by the user at the time of encoding.

1        26. The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the decoded session information  
is encoded into the second web page.

1        27. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein information encoded into the  
second web page includes all relevant session information provided by the user at the time of  
encoding.

1        28. The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising program code for  
using the updated session information to determine a configuration result.

1        29. The computer program product of claim 28, further comprising program code for  
2 using the configuration result to generate the second web page.

1        30. A computer implemented method for configuring a configurable product for a user,  
2 comprising:

3            receiving at an application server session information from the user via a network;  
4            determining at the application server a configuration result based on the session  
5            information;  
6            encoding the configuration result and the session information in a first web page;  
7            sending the first web page via the network to a web browser of the user;

8 deleting the session information and configuration result from the application server;  
9 receiving at the application server updated session information from the user via the  
10 network;  
11 determining at the application server an updated configuration result based on the  
12 updated session information;  
13 encoding the updated configuration result and updated session information in a  
14 second web page;  
15 sending the second web page via the network to the web browser of the user; and  
16 deleting the updated session information and updated configuration result from the  
17 application server.

1 31. The computer implemented method of claim 30, wherein the configuration result and  
2 session information are placed in hidden form fields.

1 32. The computer implemented method of claim 30, wherein the updated configuration  
2 result and updated session information are placed in hidden form fields.

1 33. The computer implemented method of claim 30, further comprising determining  
2 from the session information all information provided by the user in a web session.

1 34. A system for configuring a configurable product, comprising:

2 a user coupled to a network, the user including a web browser, memory and a display;  
3 and

4 a server coupled to the network, the server enabled to encode session information  
5 received from the user into a web page and to send the web page to the user  
6 for storage of the session information.